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Parys township normal after riot

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Crime Reporter

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The situation in the riot-torn Tumahole township near Parys returned to normal this morning as large contingents of Riot Squad policemen combed the area after yesterday's outbreak of violence.

Brigadier G Laubscher, Divisional Commissioner of Police for the Northern Free State, said the township was quiet.

"No incidents of stonethrowing or intimidation have been reported since early today.

"We are still patrolling the area as a precautionary measure," he said.

The unrest began yesterday morning when about 1 000 youths began a march to protest increases in rent, service tariffs and GST.

TEARGAS USED

They were warned to disperse. When they failed to do so teargas and sjamboks were used by a large contingent of policemen called in from Kroonstad, Sasolburg and Welkom.

Shops were broken into and looted, stones were thrown at policemen and vehicles and businesses were set alight.

Violence continued throughout yesterday and early this morning. Four policemen were injured and 13 people arrested on charges including public violence and housebreaking.

The publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, Mr Terror Lekota, was detained for several hours in Parys last night. Police took 62 documents from him, including copies of a letter from the UDF to the Pope and photocopies of articles from the New York Times, The Guardian and The Star.

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